

AMENDMENT under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/385,607

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 were pending in the application. By this amendment Applicant cancels rejected claims 11-12, 15, 17 and 19-21 without prejudice or disclaimer and amends claims 13 and 14 to include the limitations of claim 11. Thus claims 1-7, 10, 13-14, 16 and 18 are all the claims which remain pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 10 are indicated as being allowed and claims 13, 14, 16 and 18 are indicated as including allowable subject matter but objected to as depending from rejected claims. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

All amendments presented herein either cancel rejected claims or amend dependent claims indicated as having allowable subject matter to expressly recite limitations from the claims which they previously depended from. No new issues which require further consideration are raised by any of the foregoing amendments and thus the amendment to the claims should be entered into the record in accordance with the after-final provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER.

Claims 1-7 and 10 have been indicated as being allowable. Remaining pending claims 13-14, 16 and 18 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter but are objected to as dependent from rejected base/intervening claims. Without acquiescing to the rejections in the Office Action, by the foregoing amendments, Applicant believes all rejections and objections have been traversed and all claims 1-7, 10, 13-14, 16 and 18 are now in condition for allowance.

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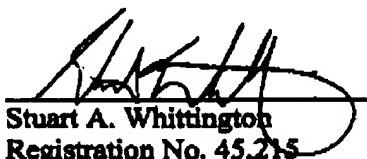
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CONCLUSION.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee or deficiency thereof, except for the Issue Fee, is to be charged to Deposit Account # 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,


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